



State of Vermont
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Agency of Administration

VERMONT BOARD OF LIBRARIES MINUTES OF MEETING

**Tuesday, January 19, 2010
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Pierson Library, Shelburne**

Members present: David Brown, Chair; John Rosenthal; Linda Williamson; Susan R. Bruce; Martha Reid, State Librarian. (Note: Linda Williamson was delayed by snowy road conditions and joined the meeting at 10:39 a.m.)

Also present: Marti Fiske, Vermont Library Association liaison, and Renee Ancel, Department of Libraries.

Call to Order

David Brown called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Minutes

The minutes for the last Board of Libraries meeting held October 13, 2009, were reviewed and unanimously approved with no modifications.

Welcome: Kip Roberson, Library Director, Pierson Library
Kip Robertson was absent from the meeting, due to illness.

Board Reports

Reflections: David Brown, Chair

Chair David Brown reflected on his years serving as a member of the Board of Libraries. He spoke about the transitions libraries have undergone during the past 8 years and the future challenges that libraries face. He noted that libraries must plan for the possibility of natural disasters and have preparedness plans on file.

Review of Board Accomplishments: David Brown, Chair

When thinking about Board accomplishments over the past 8 years, Brown cited: (1) greater visibility of the Board of Libraries in the library community, since meetings are often held at local libraries; and (2) the Board served a major role in the selection of new State Librarian, Martha Reid. He commended her for the work she has done in her first year.

Group discussion: Ideas for future work of the Board

David Brown asked those present to share their ideas about the future role of the Board. State Librarian Reid talked about the need to fill 5 Board vacancies before the next meeting in April 2010. She has contacted a few potential candidates who have declined the invitation. One reason cited was the problematic dual role of Board members (Advisory to the State Librarian, as well as responsibility for Geographic Naming.) Susan R. Bruce said it is important for citizens to participate in government and that being a member of the Board of Libraries offers that opportunity for Vermont residents.

Election of Officers:

Linda Williamson was nominated by David Brown to be the new Chair of the Board of Libraries. Hearing no other nominations, the issue was put to a vote. Hearing no member opposed, David Brown declared Linda Williamson the new Chair and “passed the gavel” to her. This was followed by a photo session; David Brown will send a photo and information about the election to the *Valley News*, the newspaper in Williamson’s home town.

Recognition of Members Retiring from the Board: David Brown and John Rosenthal

State Librarian Martha Reid thanked both Brown and Rosenthal on behalf of the Department of Libraries and the Vermont library community for their years of service on the Board. She noted that both men have been active on numerous library-related committees and have made significant contributions to the growth and development of Vermont’s public libraries.

State Librarian’s Report:

Martha Reid distributed a copy of her report and briefly elaborated on the following points:

- Public Library Standards Applications FY2009
In his initial summary report on Public Library Standards, Rob Geiszler (Dept. of Libraries) estimated that out of the 165 applications submitted, 141 libraries met standards in FY09. Three libraries (Jericho Town Library, Mount Holly Library and Orwell Free Public Library) met standards for the first time. A final report will be issued once all the data from local libraries has been collected. State Librarian Reid will send congratulatory letters to these three libraries, as well as informational letters to the approximately 50 libraries that did not meet standards. She reminded the Board that libraries may appeal to the Board of Libraries if they disagree with the Department’s assessment that they do not meet standards.
- The official Vermont Public Library Standards (via the Rules Committee of the Legislature) were written in 1986. A second set of “higher” standards were issued in 1998; libraries have the option to apply for either set of standards. These standards are in need of revision. (Board members agreed that the standards need to be up-dated and talked briefly about the process used in 1998.)
- Reid has submitted the FY11 Department budget and will appear this month before the House Appropriations Committee.
- The Department of Libraries was one of 14 state library agencies awarded a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for help in preparing an application for funds from the Broadband Opportunities Program (BTOP) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (federal stimulus program.) The Department of Libraries will partner with the Vermont Telecommunications Authority on an application to build a statewide fiber optic network that will bring high speed broadband to Vermont community anchor institutions, including public libraries. The deadline for this application will be in March.

Other Business

Copies of the new Board of Libraries By-laws (approved in October 2009) were distributed.

The meeting was adjourned by 11:45 a.m.

The next meeting will take place on April 20, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. at the Midstate Library Service Center in Berlin. *[Note: Meeting date was later changed to May 18, 2010.]*

Submitted by:

Martha Reid, State Librarian

Secretary to the Board of Libraries